



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10/587,211 | 07/25/2006 | Noa Hasid | 27571U | 7160 |
| 20529 | 7590 | 11/20/2007 | | |
| NATH & ASSOCIATES 112 South West Street Alexandria, VA 22314 | | | EXAMINER CHAMBERS, TRAVIS SLOAN | |
| | | | ART UNIT 2833 | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | MAIL DATE 11/20/2007 | DELIVERY MODE PAPER |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/587,211

Applicant(s)

HASID, NOA

Examiner

Travis Chambers

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Remarks dated 08/30/2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 July 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

- ☐ Applicant's election without traverse of Species 1, figures 1-6 (with claims 1-21 readable thereon) in Papers Dated 08/30/2007 is acknowledged.
- ☐ *The restriction is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.*

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

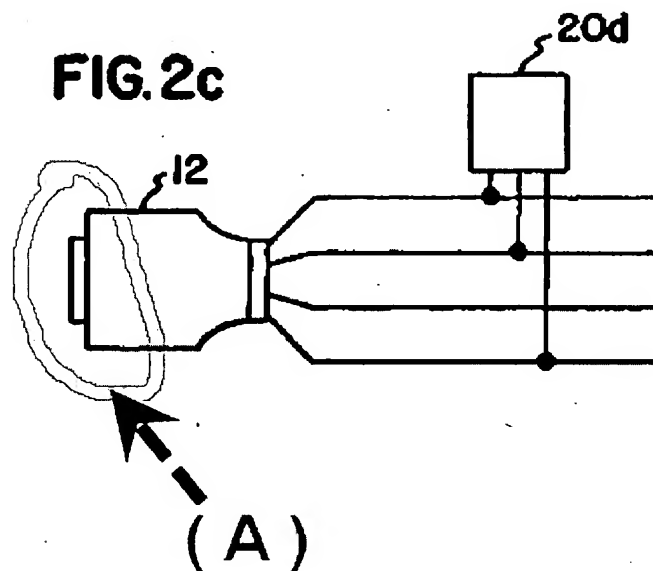
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3,5,6,8,11-14,16,20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Rourke (5902148).

In reference to claim 1, O'Rourke teaches a plug unit (12; figure 1) operatively connected to at least one socket unit (22 ; figure 1) characterized in that the assembly is formed as an integral body (10; figure 1) comprising at least one suitable electrically

insulating material that encapsulates the electrical connections (14 ; figure 2a) between the plug unit (12) and the at least one socket unit (22).

In reference to claim 2, O'Rourke teaches the electrical connections comprise a phase line, comprising electrically connected elements including a pin (pin exposed from portion A connected to 14b; image below), conductor (portion of 20d connected to 14b ; figure 2c) and at least one connector (14b ; figure 2c), and a neutral line, comprising electrically connected elements including a pin (pin exposed from portion A connected to 14a; image below), conductor (portion of 20d connected to 14a ; figure 2c) and at least one connector (14a ; figure 2c).



In reference to claim 3, O'Rourke teaches the electrical connections further comprise a ground line, comprising electrically connected elements including a pin (pin

exposed from A connected to 24; image below), conductor (portion of 20d connected to 24 ; figure 2c) and at least one connector (24 ; figure 2c).

In reference to claim 5, O'Rourke teaches wherein the plug unit (12 ; figure 1) and the socket units (22) are formed as blocks interconnected via at least one of webs and bridges (16, 18 ; figure 1).

In reference to claim 6, O'Rourke teaches a socket unit (22) integrally formed with a block comprising the plug unit (12).

In reference to claim 8, O'Rourke teaches the bridges (16,18) are of sufficient length such as to enable the at least one socket unit (22) to be aligned over the plug unit (12) to provide a compact configuration.

In particular reference to the recitations "to enable", this is seen to be for the intended use of the claimed structure and are given little patentable weight. Further, the recitation is not seen to claim any structure that prevents the reference from being used for the same purpose as the intended use recitations of the claim.

In reference to claim 11, O'Rourke teaches wherein the material is a suitable plastic or rubber-based material (col. 3 lines 25-30).

In reference to claim 12, O'Rourke teaches the material is a flexible material.

In reference to claim 13, O'Rourke teaches the integral body (10) is formed by casting the at least one encapsulating material in a suitable mold (Col. 3 line(s) 25-40).

In reference to claim 14, O'Rourke teaches the plug unit (12) and the socket units (22) are formed as blocks interconnected via at least one of webs and bridges (16, 18), and wherein a first encapsulating material is used for the blocks (pertaining to 12 and 22) and a second encapsulating material is used for the bridges (16,18).

In reference to claim 16, O'Rourke teaches two the socket units (22) linearly arranged with respect to the plug unit (12).

In reference to claim 20, O'Rourke teaches particularly adapted for distributing AC current from the plug unit (12) to the socket units (22).

In reference to claim 21, O'Rourke teaches a plug unit (12) operatively connected to a plurality of socket unit (22) characterized in that adjacent the socket units (22) are flexibly connected (through 16 and 18) one to the other.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 4, 9,10, 15, 17, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Rourke (5902148) in view of Milan (5788521).

In reference to claim 4, O'Rourke shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However O'Rourke does not teach the earth line, phase line and neutral lines are each arranged along substantially parallel axes, and wherein the earth line axis is in-between the phase line axis and the neutral line axis.

Milan teaches the earth line (middle 32,33 ; figure 6), phase line (left 55 ; figure 6) and neutral lines (right 55 ; figure 6) are each arranged along substantially parallel axes, and wherein the earth line (middle 32,33) axis is in-between the phase line (right 55) axis and the neutral line (left 55) axis.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teaching of Milan to improve the invention of O'Rourke.

Therefore one skilled in the art would have been motivated to select the shape of Milan based on aesthetic/environmental requirements/preference that are driven by a desire to increase market share.

In reference to claim 9, O'Rourke shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However O'Rourke does not teach locking means to reversibly lock the at least one socket unit with respect to the plug unit when in the compact configuration.

Milan teaches locking means (67,68 ; figure 1) to reversibly lock the at least one socket unit (31 ; figure 3) with respect to the plug unit (34 ; figure 3) when in the compact configuration.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teaching of Milan to improve the invention of O'Rourke.

One skilled in the art would have been motivated to use the teachings of Milan because it improves the connection between the male and female elements to limit the chance of disconnection.

In reference to claim 10, O'Rourke shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However O'Rourke does not teach the locking means comprise mutually engageable male and female elements, each comprised on facing surfaces of the plug unit and the socket unit when in the compact configuration.

Milan teaches the locking means (67,68 ; figure 1) comprise mutually engageable male (33 ; figure 3) and female elements (32 ; figure 3), each comprised on facing surfaces of the plug unit (34 ; figure 3) and the socket unit (31 ; figure 3) when in the compact configuration.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teaching of Milan to improve the invention of O'Rourke.

One skilled in the art would have been motivated to use the teachings of Milan because it allows the male and female elements to be better secured to each other and reduce the chance of disconnection.

In reference to claim 15, O'Rourke shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However O'Rourke does not teach the first encapsulating material is more rigid.

Milan teaches the first encapsulating material (housing portion of 21 ; figure 1) is more rigid.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teaching of Milan to improve the invention of O'Rourke.

Therefore one skilled in the art would have been motivated to use the teachings of Milan because it improves the protection of the electrical connecting components reducing the chance of the components being compressed and damaged.

In reference to claim 17, O'Rourke shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However O'Rourke does not teach a suitable indicator for alerting a user that the assembly is connected to an electric source.

Milan teaches a suitable indicator (29 ; figure 1) for alerting a user that the assembly is connected to an electric source.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teaching of Milan to improve the invention of O'Rourke.

Therefore one skilled in the art would have been motivated to use the teachings of Milan because improves the informing the user visually when proper connection is made to a power source.

In reference to claim 18, O'Rourke shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However O'Rourke does not teach the indicator comprises an LED that is adapted for lighting when the assembly is connected to an electric source.

O'Rourke teaches the indicator comprises an LED that is adapted for lighting when the assembly is connected to an electric source.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teaching of Milan to improve the invention of O'Rourke.

One skilled in the art would have been motivated to use the teachings of Milan because the indication of proper electrical connection is improved, thus better informing the user.

In reference to claim 19, O'Rourke shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However O'Rourke does not teach at least one switch for selectively connecting or interrupting the electrical connection between the plug unit and the at least one the socket unit.

Milan does not teach at least one switch (30 ; figure 1) for selectively connecting or interrupting the electrical connection between the plug unit (27 ; figure 1) and the at least one the socket unit (31 ; figure 1).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teaching of Milan to improve the invention of O'Rourke.

Therefore one skilled in the art would have been motivated to use the teachings of Milan because it allows better control to activate and deactivate the electrical connection to improve user safety.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over O'Rourke (5902148) in view of Shannon (4072376).

In reference to claim 7, O'Rourke shows substantially the invention as claimed.

However O'Rourke does not teach the blocks are formed as discs.

Shannon teaches the blocks (117 ; figure 4) are formed as discs.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teaching of Shannon to improve the invention of O'Rourke.

Therefore One skilled in the art would have been motivated to use the shape of Shannon improve the cost of making the device by requiring less material to be used.

Conclusion

The prior listed on PTO form 892 that is made of record is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it shows the state of the art with respect to applicant's claimed invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Travis Chambers whose telephone number is 571-272-6813. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8am - 4:30pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula Bradley can be reached on 571-272-2001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Application/Control Number:
10/587,211
Art Unit: 2833

Page 11

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Travis Chambers
TC
11/6/2007


THO D. TA
PRIMARY EXAMINER